

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A security method for a computer system, comprising:
  - 2 (a) using a biometric sensor to verify the authenticity of a person; and
  - 3 (b) activating a lock associated with a computer component if the person is
  - 4 successfully verified, said lock preventing said computer component from being
  - 5 removed from said computer system.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said biometric sensor comprises a fingerprint sensor.
- 3 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said biometric sensor comprises an iris scanner.
- 4 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said lock comprises an electromagnetic lock associated  
with said biometric sensor.
- 5 5. The method of claim 1 wherein (c) includes unlocking said lock.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said computer component comprises a server computer  
2 located in a rack containing a plurality of computer equipment.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said computer component comprises a server computer  
2 located in a rack containing a plurality of server computers.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said computer component comprises a power supply unit  
2 located in a rack containing a plurality of power supply units.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said computer component comprises a power supply unit  
2 located in a rack containing a plurality of computer equipment.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further including maintaining a lock associated with the biometric  
2 sensor in a locked state if the person is not successfully verified.

1 11. A locking system for a computer system comprising a plurality of computer equipment,  
2 said locking system comprising:

3 a biometric sensor;

4 a control unit coupled to said biometric sensor; and

5 a lock coupled to and controlled by said control unit;

6 wherein said biometric sensor and said lock are associated with one of said plurality of  
7 computer equipment comprising said computer system, said lock preventing said  
8 computer equipment from being removed from said computer system.

1 12. The locking system of claim 11 wherein said biometric sensor comprises a fingerprint  
2 scanner.

1 13. The locking system of claim 11 wherein said biometric sensor comprises an iris scanner.

1 14. The locking system of claim 11 wherein said lock comprises an electromechanical lock.

1 15. The locking system of claim 11 further including a registry stored in memory accessible by  
2 said control unit, said registry including a template for each person authorized to unlock a lock.

1 16. The locking system of claim 15 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a  
2 person that has activated a biometric sensor by using the templates stored in said registry.

1 17. The locking system of claim 16 wherein said control unit unlocks a lock if said control unit  
2 successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

1 18. The locking system of claim 16 wherein said control unit maintains a lock in a locked state  
2 if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of a person.

1 19. A computer system, comprising:  
2 a plurality of computer components;  
3 a biometric sensor;  
4 a control unit coupled to said biometric sensor; and  
5 a lock coupled to and controlled by said control unit;  
6 wherein said biometric sensor and said lock are associated with a computer component and  
7 said lock prevents said computer component from being removed from said  
8 computer system.

1 20. The computer system of claim 19 wherein said biometric sensor comprises a fingerprint  
2 scanner.

1 21. The computer system of claim 19 wherein said biometric sensor comprises an iris scanner.

1 22. The computer system of claim 19 wherein said lock comprises an electromechanical lock.

1 23. The computer system of claim 19 further including a registry stored in memory accessible  
2 by said control unit, said registry including a biometric template for each person authorized to  
3 unlock a lock.

1 24. The computer system of claim 23 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a  
2 person that has activated a biometric sensor by using the templates stored in said registry.

1 25. The computer system of claim 24 wherein said control unit unlocks a lock if said control  
2 unit successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

1 26. The computer system of claim 23 wherein said control unit maintains a lock in a locked  
2 state if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of a person.

1 27. The computer system of claim 19 wherein said biometric sensor is associated with a  
2 plurality of computer components.

1 28. A security method for a computer system including a plurality of computer components,  
2 comprising:

3 (a) using a biometric sensor to verify the authenticity of a person; and

4 (b) permitting use of a computer component if the person is successfully verified.

1 29. The method of claim 28 wherein said biometric sensor comprises a fingerprint sensor.

1 30. The method of claim 28 wherein said biometric sensor comprises an iris scanner.

1 31. The method of claim 28 wherein said computer component comprises a storage device.

1 32. The method of claim 28 wherein said computer component comprises a storage device and  
2 (b) includes permitting a user to read data from said storage device.

33. The method of claim 28 wherein said computer component comprises a storage device and  
2 (b) includes permitting a user to write data to said storage device.

34. The method of claim 28 wherein said computer component comprises a storage device and  
2 (b) includes permitting a user to read data from and write data to said storage device.

1 35. The method of claim 28 wherein said computer component comprises a CD ROM.

1 36. The method of claim 28 wherein said computer component comprises a hard disk drive.

1 37. The method of claim 28 wherein (a) is performed when a software program needs to access  
2 said computer component.

1 38. The method of claim 37 wherein said computer component comprises a storage device.

1 39. The method of claim 28 further including:

2 (d) associating a person with use of a computer component.

1 40. The method of claim 39 wherein (d) includes acquiring a biometric image from said person  
2 and associating a security access code with said biometric image.

1 41. A biometric access system for a computer system that includes a plurality of computer  
2 devices, comprising:

3 a biometric sensor;

4 a control unit coupled to said biometric sensor, said control unit controlling access to a  
5 computer device in said computer system based on a signal from said biometric  
6 sensor.

7 42. The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said biometric sensor comprises a  
2 fingerprint scanner.

1 43. The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said biometric sensor comprises an iris  
2 scanner.

1 44. The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said control unit permits a person to  
2 access said computer device based on a signal from said biometric sensor.

1 45. The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said control unit prevents a person from  
2 accessing said computer device based on a signal from said biometric sensor.

1 46. The biometric access system of claim 41 further including a registry accessible by said  
2 control unit, said registry including biometric templates of people that are permitted use of various  
3 of said computer devices.

1 47. The biometric access system of claim 46 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity  
2 of a person that has activated a biometric sensor by using the templates stored in said registry.

1 48. The biometric access system of claim 47 wherein said control unit permits a user to use a  
2 computer device if said control unit successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

1 49. The biometric access system of claim 48 wherein said computer device comprises a storage  
2 device.

1 50. The biometric access system of claim 47 wherein said control unit prevents a user from  
2 using a computer device if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of the person.

1 51. The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said computer device comprises a storage  
2 device.

1 52. A computer system, comprising:

2 a plurality of computer components;  
3 a biometric sensor;  
4 a control unit coupled to said biometric sensor, said control unit controlling access to a  
5 computer component based on a signal from said biometric sensor.

1 53. The computer system of claim 52 wherein said biometric sensor comprises a fingerprint  
2 scanner.

1 54. The computer system of claim 52 wherein said biometric sensor comprises a iris scanner.

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55. The computer system of claim 52 wherein said control unit permits a person to access said  
computer device based on a signal from said biometric sensor.

56. The computer system of claim 52 wherein said control unit prevents a person from  
accessing said computer component based on a signal from said biometric sensor.

1 57. The computer system of claim 52 further including a registry accessible by said control  
2 unit, said registry including biometric templates of people that are permitted to use various of said  
3 computer components.

1 58. The computer system of claim 57 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a  
2 person that has activated a biometric sensor by using the templates stored in said registry.



1 59. The computer system of claim 58 wherein said control unit permits a user to use a  
2 computer component if said control unit successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

1 60. The computer system of claim 59 wherein said computer component comprises a storage  
2 device.

1 61. The biometric access system of claim 58 wherein said control unit prevents a user from  
2 using a computer component if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of the person.

1 62. The computer system of claim 52 wherein said computer component comprises a storage  
2 device.

1 63. The computer system of claim 52 further including a plurality of biometric sensors, a  
2 biometric sensor associated with each computer component.

1 64. A security system for a computer system comprising a plurality of computer equipment,  
2 said security system comprising:

3 a biometric sensor;

4 a control unit coupled to said biometric sensor; and

5 a lock coupled to and controlled by said control unit;

6 wherein said biometric sensor and said lock are associated with one of said plurality of  
7 computer equipment comprising said computer system, said lock preventing said

8 computer equipment from being removed from said computer system and said lock  
9 can be unlocked upon a person being authenticated via said biometric sensor, and  
10 wherein said computer equipment can not be used unless a person is authenticated using  
11 said biometric sensor.

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